

Tamarack Trail

Along the trail, you'll see white signs with blue letters. These letters correspond with the information in this guide for further details.

Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)



This is a very invasive, species of plant that can quickly take over pastures and fields and can greatly reduce crop production. Spotted Knapweed will actually release a toxin into the ground, which stops other plant species from growing. It grows on the Refuge, invading prairies and preventing the wildflowers from growing, so it's chemically treated or mowed down.

Boxelder Tree (*Acer negundo*)

Also known as Ash-leaved Maple, Boxelder is native to the United States, being found in all 50 states usually by moist areas and in a wide range of soils. It spreads easily and is considered invasive in some areas of the U.S.



Several cities have actually prohibited the planting of Boxelder trees. It is not used for timber or firewood because it has light, soft wood, but it is a popular landscape tree. Birds and squirrels feed on the seeds of Boxelder and deer feed on it in the fall.

Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

This is a non-native invasive species in the United States but is native to Asia, Europe, and northern Africa. This tree is shade tolerant and blocks sunlight from reaching other forest plants. This also causes erosion in areas with Common Buckthorn, because there are no roots from other plants growing to keep the soil in place. Rydell NWR controls this tree by cutting it down and applying herbicides to the stump several times, while burning can control young trees.



American Basswood Tree (*Tilia americana*)

This tree is native and is found in 37 states in the central and eastern United States. It is a main tree that makes up the maple-basswood forests found at Rydell NWR. Young American Basswood trees can often be found growing in oak forests. White-tailed deer prefer American Basswood trees as browsing food and honeybees often visit the flowers for nectar.

Balsam Poplar Tree (*Populus balsamifera*)



This native tree is found in most of Canada and northern U.S., where several states list it as endangered. It's found in boreal (northern) forests where it helps to provide shelter and food for a wide variety of wildlife such as moose, coyote, black bear, snowshoe hare, and beaver. It also colonizes disturbed areas such as land used for logging or recently burned land.

Chokecherry Tree (*Prunus virginiana*)

The Chokecherry tree is a native species found in most of the U.S. In Minnesota, it grows in forests and transition zones, commonly found

by old forest trees or among other shrubs. The Chokecherry tree is often regarded as being important for wildlife, providing food, protection, habitat, and species diversity. Although the twigs and leaves contain a toxin, the chokecherry fruits provide food for many migratory birds.

Common Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)



Common Mullein is native to Africa, Asia, and Europe. It was first introduced here in the mid-1700s, to be used as

fish poison in Virginia. It quickly spread throughout the country, especially in the eastern states. It does have the potential to become invasive in meadows and openings in forests where it can adapt and grow easily. It is estimated that one plant can produce 100,000 to 180,000 seeds, which may remain viable for over 100 years. Common mullein is also often called nature's toilet paper due to its soft texture.

Goldenrod (*Solidago*)

There are many species of goldenrod. They are very common to see in prairies where they

can get enough light to grow. Contrary to popular belief, goldenrod plants do not cause hay fever. Its pollen grains are too heavy for wind to carry it to humans. Ragweed, which blooms at the same time, has lighter pollen grains that do cause hay fever.



For further information on the animals and plants at Rydell NWR, books may be checked out in the visitor's center or purchased at the Gift Shop.



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US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

RYDELL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Tamarack Trail Guide

Theme: Native/Non-native,
Invasive/Non-invasive Plants



The Tamarac Lake Trail (2.25 miles) circles the lake that it's named for, passing many restored tallgrass prairies with wildflowers and an ironwood stand. Along the way, it has many examples of native and non-native species of plants on the refuge. These plants can either be invasive or non-invasive.